

REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 21, 2008.

Claims 6-11, 19, 20, 23, 24 and 55-63 were pending, with claims 1-5, 12-18, 21, 22 and 25-54 having previously been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer. By this Amendment, claims 55, 58 and 61 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 6, 19 and 23 have been amended to include the features formerly recited in now-canceled claims 55, 58 and 61, respectively, and claims 57, 60 and 63 have been amended by rewriting each of them in independent form. Claims 6-11, 19, 20, 23, 24, 56, 57, 59, 60, 62 and 63 would remain pending upon entry of this amendment, with claims 6, 19, 23, 57, 60 and 63 being in independent form.

Claims 6-11, 19, 20, 23, 24, 56, 59 and 62 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,712,460 to Ohashi et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,270,207 to Sasaki.

The Office Action indicated that claims 55, 57, 58, 60, 61 and 63 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this Amendment, claims 6, 19 and 23 have been amended to include the features formerly recited in now-canceled claims 55, 58 and 61, respectively, and claims 57, 60 and 63 have been amended by rewriting each of them in independent form.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 6, 19, 23, 57, 60 and 63, and the claims depending therefrom, are now allowable.

In view of the amendments and remarks hereinabove, applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance, and earnestly solicits the allowance of the application.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any required fees in connection with this amendment, and to credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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